



Broadview

GREEN GRID

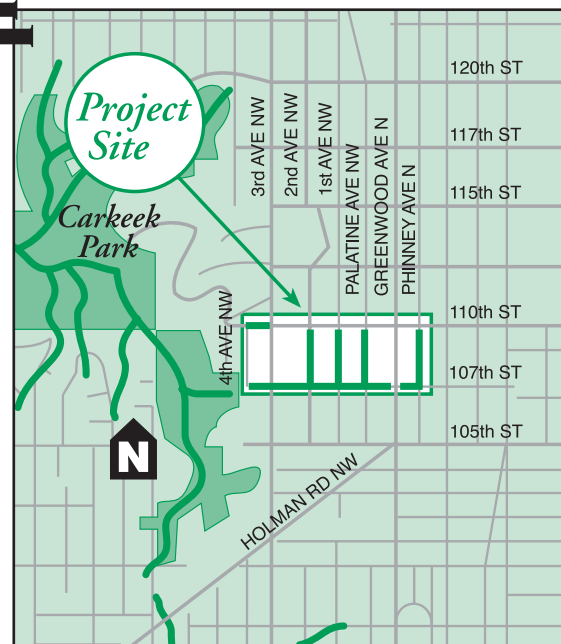
MAY 2003

WELCOME

The City of Seattle created this monthly newsletter to keep your neighborhood informed about the Broadview Green Grid. This is the most ambitious natural drainage system project to date. Presently in the final stages of design, the project will construct a natural drainage system integrated with pedestrian and traffic calming enhancements on the streets in your neighborhood. The project area contains the following streets:

- 107th St. from Phinney Ave. N to 4th Ave. NW,
- 110th St. from 3rd to 4th Avenues NW, and
- Phinney Ave. N, Palatine Ave. N, and 1st and 2nd Avenues NW from 107th to 110th Streets.

You have probably already received some information from SPU regarding this project. We held our first community meeting in October 2002 and since then the design team has been hard at work to get the designs finalized. Many of the preliminary designs were presented at our second community meeting held in



April 2003 and the feedback to date is giving us a great deal of confidence that residents like the changes that are proposed for their streets. As always, if you have any questions don't hesitate to call or send me an email (contact information on page 4).

Jim Johnson, Project Manager

News You Can Use: Construction Checklist

- ✓ Complete a right-of-entry with the City
- ✓ Relocate plants out of the right-of-way
- ✓ Make arrangements to have personal property out of the right-of-way

(more details on page 2)

SPOTLIGHT

With each issue of the newsletter, we plan to give you information about natural drainage systems, what they are, why they are important and how they work, and what you can expect during construction. We need your cooperation for construction to go smoothly, so in addition to holding a public meeting this summer that will be focused on construction activities, we will provide you with a checklist in each newsletter to help you prepare. In this issue, we are providing you with some general information about what a natural drainage system is and why we need it.

What is a Natural Drainage System?

Natural Drainage Systems use natural landscape features - open swales with plants in them, street trees, stormwater cascades, small wetland ponds and smaller paved areas - to replace the function of the forests and marshes present in this area before development. In our modern landscape, surfaces such as rooftops,

Continued on page 2

SPOTLIGHT *Continued from page 1*

streets, and parking lots do not allow rainwater to seep into the soil. As a result, the water flows in a rush to Seattle's creeks, causing downstream flooding, and erosion of the stream bed and natural habitat. In addition, pollutants generated by such things as the use of gas-powered equipment and vehicles; routine use of fertilizers or pesticides and related activities common to our urban lifestyle are carried through creeks, into lakes, and into Puget Sound. Natural drainage systems help slow water down and give pollutants a chance to settle out before the runoff gets to the receiving waters, in this case, Piper's Creek. This benefits human health and the natural environment.

With neighborhood support, three successful prototypes of natural drainage systems have been completed near you. If you haven't already, we encourage you to take a stroll or a drive to see the changes:

1. **Street Edge Alternative (SEA Street), located on 2nd Ave. NW, between 117th and 120th Streets**
2. **Viewlands Cascade, located on 105th St. west of 3rd Ave. NW**
3. **Carkeek Cascade, located on 110th, between Greenwood Ave. N and 3rd Ave. NW**



Street Edge Alternative Project Planting

For more information on the City of Seattle's Natural Drainage Systems Projects, please visit our website at: www.cityofseattle.net/util/naturalsystems

Project Schedule

Late spring 2003 - Street designs completed
Summer 2003 - Contract awarded
Late summer 2003 - Construction begins
Late summer 2004 - Construction completed, landscaping continues through the winter ❁

NEWS YOU CAN USE: CONSTRUCTION CHECKLIST



Complete a right-of-entry with the City

The Broadview Green Grid project will require most property owners to complete a right-of-entry for the City to enter and complete work on that portion of the property closest to the public right-of-way (ROW). This will be similar to the paperwork some of you were asked to complete to grant us the right to survey your property during the design process. This right-of-entry will allow us to "meet and match" your existing improvements such as sidewalks and driveways to the improvements we construct in the public ROW.

If entry paperwork is needed, Carolyn Johnson, our Real Property Agent, will contact you by mail to request that you complete this document. You don't have to come in, just complete the paperwork Carolyn sends you. In addition, some of you have been contacted by the Project Manager, Jim Johnson, regarding more site specific work, such as reconfiguring your walkway or regrading beyond the "meet and match" category. This type of work requires a construction easement. Carolyn will personally contact those of you requiring this document.



Relocate plants out of the right-of-way

See Landscaping Corner Section of this issue on next page.



Make arrangements to have personal property out of the right-of-way

Many residents have property in the ROW that will need to be relocated before construction begins. Some of those items are vehicles, detached trailers, fences, walls and basketball hoops. If you are currently parking a car or RV in the street, or are storing something in the ROW on a regular basis, please make arrangements to move that item by the end of July. We will keep you updated as we get closer to construction. ❁

NEIGHBORHOOD FEEDBACK

The second of three public meetings was held on Tuesday, April 8, to share the advanced designs and continue our dialogue with you. Thank you to those who attended. We were happy to meet so many of you and appreciate your support for this project.

Two of the most commonly mentioned concerns we heard from you were changes to parking in the right-of-way and the West Nile virus.

Parking

Many of you have expressed concern that the new street designs will reduce the available on-street parking in the project area. Available on-street parking will be reduced, but the remaining parking will be similar to many other areas of the city. There will be a change in how the street right-of-way is used. Less space will be available for storing trailers and other vehicles that are not used on a regular basis and you may need to use parking available off the alleys more often.

Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) conducted a block-by-block assessment of the legal parking in the project area. There are currently 279 legal parking spaces in the project area. After the project is completed there will be 166 spaces, amounting to a reduction of 113 parking spaces. While this appears to be a significant reduction, the highest number of vehicles parked in the area during the study was 109 on a Saturday night. A Tuesday evening count recorded

90 vehicles in the project area. It is important to note that this survey did not count vehicles and spaces available on private property, where there is additional capacity.

West Nile Virus

A number of you expressed concern that the project will create areas of standing water providing potential mosquito breeding habitat resulting in an increased exposure to West Nile virus. While mosquitoes do like still or standing water in which to lay their eggs, it takes a minimum of seven days for these eggs to hatch into larvae and develop into adult mosquitoes. SPU has designed the swales in natural drainage systems to completely drain within three days, eliminating this problem. Please notify us if you observe a swale that holds water longer.

Over 45,000 catch basins are located throughout the City, including some existing in your neighborhood today, and some new ones to be installed during the project. Most hold some amount of water in the sump area, where sediments collect. SPU will be randomly sampling basins throughout the summer to check for the presence of mosquito larvae, and eradicating if necessary.

General information on West Nile Virus is available by contacting Public Health-Seattle & King County at **(206) 205-3883** or www.metrokc.gov/health/westnile/. 🌿



Landscaping Corner

In future issues we will discuss the plant varieties available for this project. We will provide information to assist you in the selection of plants that are most compatible with the unique character of your property and your individual gardening interests.

Because you know your yard better than anyone else, but are likely to be unfamiliar with what works best in a natural system, the success of this project depends on a partnership between you and our Landscape Architect, Shane Dewald. This partnership has already begun with the questionnaire provided to you all (it is still available to those who haven't had a chance to fill it out) and will continue via community meetings, this monthly newsletter, and one-on-one site visits.

If you haven't done so already, there is still plenty of time to visit with Shane. She has reserved time in her schedule for 30-minute meetings with residents at their homes on

two Tuesday afternoons and three Friday afternoons during the month of June (6th, 10th, 13th, 17th and 20th). Please contact her by phone at **(206) 684-5041** or email at shane.dewald@seattle.gov to request a time! Choose one of the afternoon times - 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, or 3:00 - but get your time request in early if your calendar limits what will work for you! If you make your request via email or voice mail, be sure to provide your name and address. If possible, provide more than one option for a meeting time. You will receive an email response or a return call to confirm your appointment.

Some of you may have been contacted by Jim Johnson, regarding plants that are in the ROW. If you are in doubt about where the ROW is and whether or not this affects you, contact him. If you do have plants in the ROW that you would like keep, these need to be transplanted to your property. Please think about doing this as soon as possible as the season for transplanting is drawing to a close. It might also be possible to relocate those plants back in the ROW in front of your house after construction is completed. If that is what you want, we will do our best to integrate that planting with the new plants provided by the project during construction. 🌿

UTILITIES UPDATE

As you might expect, a project of this size will require a fair amount of utilities coordination. We consider the following to be utilities and services of interest to this project and will be discussing each one in this or future newsletters. We will start with a discussion of sanitary sewer this month.

● **Sewer** ● **Water** ● **US Mail** ● **Natural Gas**
● **Drainage** ● **Garbage** ● **EMS/Fire**

Sewer

Your sewer line carries your domestic wastewater from daily activities, like laundry, dishwashing, bathing and toilet flushing, away from your home and to the sewage treatment plant where it is treated before being discharged back into the environment. Some homes' downspout drains are also connected to this system. As you can imagine, this sewer line is very important.

A few of you have sewer lines that we will relocate or alter within the area of the street in order to accommodate the project. You will be contacted if this will

affect you. This relocation work, where required to accommodate the project, will be done at no cost to you, and will not affect private property.

You are not required to do so, but we suggest that now is a good time to hire a private contractor to run a camera in your side sewer line and inspect for defects. If you find a defect and repair it now, before construction, the City will waive the requirement for full restoration of the street. Typically the property owner is responsible for full restoration (on private property and in the ROW) when he or she has to replace the side sewer.

Who should I contact for more information?

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact:

Jim Johnson, Project Manager

Phone: **(206) 684-5829**

Email: **james.r.johnson@seattle.gov**

If you would prefer to receive this monthly newsletter by email, please send a request to Jim Johnson via his email address listed above. 🌱



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